



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 3 March 2008

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- According to the Providence Journal, the director of the Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center, which runs a nuclear reactor at the University of Rhode Island's Bay Campus, said the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) report on the threat of terrorist attacks to research reactors "is not realistic." The report accused the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of underestimating the potential for terrorist attacks at some of the country's 37 research reactors, 33 of which are on college campuses across the country. (See item [4](#))
- CNN reports police in Las Vegas, Nevada, are investigating the discovery of what they said is the deadly poison ricin in a hotel room. Authorities were called to an Extended Stay America hotel around 3 p.m. PT Thursday after a man brought a bag with a small container to the manager's office. The man said he found it while retrieving items from a hotel room. (See item [26](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *February 29, Associated Press* – (International) **Oil tops \$103 a barrel before retreating.** Oil prices briefly surpassed \$103 a barrel for the first time Friday as persistent weakness in the U.S. dollar and the prospect of lower interest rates attracted

fresh money to the oil market. “Right now, there’s a lot of trading based on emotion – emotions are high and that could keep crude oil at elevated levels, but the market faces the risk of a price collapse,” though a sharp correction is unlikely in the near term, according to an energy analyst with Purvin & Gertz in Singapore. Energy risk management firm Cameron Hanover reported that several ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) “are just itching for a reason, any reason, to cut output. A number of OPEC countries have become as addicted to high prices as the West has become to their oil. The ministers may not be able to find any reason to cut production now, especially if oil prices keep rising. If they cannot, they will plan another meeting in five weeks and will cut output at the first hurdle.”

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/080229/oil_prices.html?.v=6

2. *February 29, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Heating-oil spill clogs city intersection.** About 1,000 gallons of heating oil from a fuel company truck spilled last Thursday night in southwest Baltimore, Maryland, clogging a busy intersection, closing off several blocks, and diverting traffic for hours, city fire officials said. Firefighters were called to the scene of the incident about 7 p.m., where they found heating oil spilling from an A1 Fuel Oil truck. The truck had spilled oil for about a mile, said a city Fire Department spokesman. Investigators are not sure what caused the spill. Officials from the state Department of the Environment and Department of Transportation also were called to the scene.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/traffic/bal-spill0229,0,5550945.story>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

3. *February 28, Kansas City Business Journal* – (Missouri) **Chemcentral will pay fine, reimbursement for plant explosion.** Chemcentral Midwest Corp. of Kansas City, Missouri, agreed to pay a \$225,000 fine and reimburse the Environmental Protection Agency \$150,713 for federal law violations involving an explosion in February 2007, the Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday. The EPA said the explosion occurred when Chemcentral workers transferred polybutene, a chemical used in sealants, coatings, lubricants, cling film and adhesives. The EPA investigation determined that Chemcentral violated the Clean Air Act by failing to identify chemical hazards and failing to design and maintain a safe facility. The EPA also determined that Chemcentral violated the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act by failing to submit a chemical inventory form for polybutene to the local emergency planning committee, the state emergency response commission and the local fire department. A spokeswoman for Chemcentral said the company would not comment on the settlement.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/stories/2008/02/25/daily34.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *February 29, Providence Journal* – (Rhode Island; National) **Nuclear reactor security defended.** The director of the Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center, which runs a nuclear reactor at the University of Rhode Island's Bay Campus, said the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) report on the threat of terrorist attacks to research reactors "is not realistic." The report accused the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of underestimating the potential for terrorist attacks at some of the country's 37 research reactors, 33 of which are on college campuses across the country. The NRC has accused the GAO of issuing an unbalanced assessment – a criticism echoed in Narragansett because, as the Center's director explains, not all research reactors are the same. If a security breach occurred at the Narragansett reactor, he said, armed local police "right on up to SWAT teams" would be at the building within minutes, "and we have agreements with the [Federal Bureau of Investigation] and even the [Federal Aviation Authority]." The Center has also surrounded the reactor building with dozens of entrenched posts and jersey barriers to prevent any vehicles from getting too close. All staff must also pass background checks and produce picture identification before entering the building. Unlike some of the reactors noted in the GAO report, the Narragansett reactor is designed to shut down before any runaway nuclear reaction could take place. Maybe some of the research reactors noted in the GAO report deserve the criticism they received, the Center's director said, because "there are some that do have lax security. I know, I've seen them, but we've never been that way." He said many of the security measures in place at the Narragansett research reactor were set using standards designed for nuclear power plants.

Source: http://www.projo.com/news/content/NUCLEAR_PLANT_02-29-08_8T93A5R_v16.1e20854.html

5. *February 29, Associated Press* – (National) **Uranium race.** Companies are racing to provide radioactive fuel for America's nuclear renaissance and are powering debate along the way. General Electric Co. and USEC Inc., along with European rivals Urenco Ltd. and Areva Inc., are pushing billions worth of new U.S. enrichment plants or technology so they do not miss the new uranium boom. In Utah, the long-dormant uranium industry is part of that boom, with old mines reopening, one processing mill in operation and another slated to begin work. Opponents argue it is unclear whether the U.S. really needs new facilities, when it could just import nuclear fuel from elsewhere. The United States' 104 nuclear power plants currently get about 85 percent of their uranium from other countries. Shipments from Russia, which now supplies about 40 percent of enriched uranium for U.S. commercial reactors, are due to be cut roughly in half by 2013. And an aging U.S. enrichment facility in Paducah, Kentucky, is due to be shuttered. That means power plants here will have to fill the vacuum, including from new domestic suppliers. Officials from French-owned Areva have been tromping around eastern Idaho's lava and sagebrush steppe since last year near the 850-square-mile Idaho National Laboratory site. Meanwhile, General Electric is working on a laser process for enriching uranium at a test facility in North Carolina and has indicated its intent to apply for a full-scale project. Urenco is part of a consortium whose \$1.5 billion enrichment facility has spawned a boomtown in southeastern New Mexico. The plant is due to open next year. And USEC is building its American Centrifuge plant in the Ohio river town of Piketon and expects to enrich enough uranium there by 2012 to supply a quarter of

existing U.S. demand.

Source: <http://deseretnews.com/article/1,5143,695257326,00.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *February 28, Defense News* – (National) **Lockheed displays JLTV utility variant.**

Lockheed Martin has unveiled its second Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) prototype, a 15,000-pound utility vehicle loaded with state-of-the-art technology. The new variant is outfitted with a remote-controlled, lightweight, .30-caliber gun on the roof, a large cabin behind the driver's cab, and a trailer attached to meet ambitious JLTV payload requirements. The new prototype will be put through additional rigorous testing. JLTV contracts are expected to be awarded this summer. In terms of blast protection, Lockheed calls its vehicle design an improved V-shaped hull. Both of Lockheed's JLTV prototypes, including its first model, the Combat Tactical Vehicle, which has already driven more than 5,000 miles of testing, have a V-shaped hull, lightweight composites with add-on armor capability, high-tech electronics, and what Lockheed describes as a unique air-suspension system.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=3396218&c=AME&s=LAN>

7. *February 28, Defense News* – (National) **Congress eyes navy shipbuilding programs.**

Congressional scrutiny of the U.S. Navy's shipbuilding programs is likely to continue to be sharp, if the new budget season's first two naval hearings are any indication. On Wednesday, the House Appropriations Defense subcommittee chairman signaled a possible lack of support for the new Zumwalt class DDG 1000 destroyer program when he asked about the effects of delaying the 2009 ship in favor of more auxiliary cargo ships, and cautioned that cost growth remains a serious issue for the service's 313-ship fleet plan. That concern was echoed Thursday during the Senate Armed Service Committee's posture hearing on the Navy Department's \$149.3 billion 2009 budget request. The chairman reiterated his apprehensions about "cost problems in the shipbuilding arena, most notably with the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) program." Another senator expressed alarm about interest in possibly delaying or curtailing the DDG 1000 program, and got agreement from the chief of naval operations, who expressed concern over disruption of combatant construction lines.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=3397720&c=AME&s=SEA>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

8. *February 29, Associated Press & Gannett Wisconsin Newspapers*– (National) **Doctors' Social Security numbers leaked.** The Social Security numbers of Marshfield Clinic doctors in Wisconsin and others in 11 states were posted on the Internet, raising a risk of identity theft, said a spokeswoman for the company responsible for the personal information. The information was accidentally posted on a Web site of Health Net Federal Services of Rancho Cordova, California, said a spokeswoman for HNFS, a

health insurance company that is a provider for nearly 3 million military families and veterans in 23 states. From November 2007 to January 6, 2008, the personal information was posted on the Web, said a Marshfield Clinic vice president and oncologist. HNFS will pay for a year' worth of credit monitoring for the doctors involved, said the HNFS spokeswoman. The information was reached with an advanced Google search, she said. The leak has since been fixed, and new security measures tested by outside experts were found to be sound, she said. HNFS learned about the mistake, caused by "part human error" and "part of our software, too," in December, she said.

Source:

<http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080229/WDH0101/802290696/1981>

9. *February 28, CTV British Columbia* – (International) **Identity theft factory found in Surrey.** Police in Surrey, Canada, showed off the spoils of the biggest identity theft bust in the city's history Thursday morning. A nondescript building in Newton was instead an "identity theft factory" with hundreds of CDs with tens of thousands of people's personal information, including names, addresses, phone numbers, maiden names and children's names. Stacks of passports, driver's licenses and credit cards -- both real and fake -- lined the rooms, as did over 2,400 pieces of mail stolen from 24 cities across British Columbia and Alberta. Medical cards, government-issued checks, tax returns and money orders were found, as well as a .22-calibre sawed-off rifle and eight ounces of crystal meth. Some of this mail was stolen directly from mailboxes, police said. Several Canada Post uniforms and keys that opened Canada Post mailboxes were found in the building. Police characterized the operation as a "mid-level hub:" where stolen mail and various forms of identification are brought and then altered, modified, or created. From that point, it is believed that the fraudulent IDs or documents are sold to others. Two people were charged after the police sting, where some 14 officers and postal inspectors entered the property. Items found included: more than 2,400 pieces of mail stolen after delivery, credit card-making equipment, card readers, twelve international passports, more than 100 CDs believed to contain as many as 20,000 personal data profiles, counterfeit currency templates, and hundreds of tax return papers including tax return information.

Source:

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20080228/BC_ID_Theft_080228/20080228?hub=Canada

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

10. *February 29, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **FAA investigates FedEx plane close call in Memphis.** The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating what it says was a serious air traffic control error last week at the Memphis, Tennessee, airport. Two FedEx cargo jets came too close to each other while taking off. The agency blames confusion over the planes' flight numbers. The controllers union blames it on short staffing and forced overtime. The close-call happened on Thursday, February 21, when the two jets came within 200 feet vertically of each other and three-quarters of a mile

horizontally. The local president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association says that is “extremely close.” He says it would put the planes just seconds apart. The flight numbers were 527 and 257, and 1 of the pilots was given wrong instructions for a turn shortly after the jets took off at the same time from separate runways.

Source: <http://www.woi-tv.com/Global/story.asp?S=7945079&nav=1LFX>

11. *February 28, NBC 11 San Jose* – (California) **Bullet found on plane at SJ Airport forces evacuation.** A Denver-bound plane at Mineta San Jose International Airport, California, was evacuated Thursday when a United Airlines flight attendant found a bullet resting on a seat inside the aircraft, an airport spokesman said. Approximately 100 people were in the process of boarding the plane at about 8:20 a.m. when the bullet was located, according to an airport spokesman. United Airlines evacuated the plane with the assistance of San Jose police and Transportation Security Administration personnel, he said. Passengers were rescreened and there were no immediate reports of any suspicious travelers, the spokesman said. Officials do not know where the bullet came from or when it might have appeared in the plane. United Airlines and the Transportation Security Administration will investigate the incident.

Source: <http://www.nbc11.com/news/15439881/detail.html?rss=bay&psp=news>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

12. *February 28, WSHM 3 Springfield* – (Massachusetts) **Pipe bomb found in Belchertown mailbox.** When a Belchertown, Massachusetts, resident opened his mailbox, he found what appeared to be a pipe bomb. The Belchertown Police chief said the device was a metal pipe wrapped with tape on both ends. He said it was suspicious enough to call in the State Police Bomb Squad. Police later confirmed it was, in fact, a pipe bomb. A sweep of the rest of the neighborhood turned up nothing else suspicious and police said they saw no need to evacuate the surrounding area while the device was being checked out. A Department of Public Works truck filled with sand was brought into the driveway at around 5:30 p.m. The bomb squad put the device in the truck and detonated it at around 7 p.m. The chief said as of right now it does not appear the homeowner was a target. Police are still investigating. At this point, they do not know where the bomb came from or who delivered it to the address. Belchertown Police said the U.S. Postal Service is also involved in the case because the bomb was found in a mailbox.

Source: <http://www.cbs3springfield.com/news/local/16096422.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

13. *February 29, USA Today* – (National) **Vet shortage threatens food system.** A shortage of veterinarians who treat farm animals is stressing the nation’s food inspection system, prompting the federal government to offer bonuses and moving expenses to fill hundreds of vacancies. About 500 counties have large populations of food animals but

no veterinarian who lives there to treat them, the American Veterinary Medical Association says. “We’re in a crisis situation,” says the president of the association and a vet in Dover, Delaware. “We don’t have enough rural veterinarians to be a first line of defense against animal diseases.” The federal government, in particular, needs more vets working on food safety. “There are so many vacancies that you’ve got one veterinarian doing the job of three,” says the head of the National Association of Federal Veterinarians. “The whole unhappy affair in California is absolutely a symptom of a shortage of vets working for the Department of Agriculture,” says the executive director of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges. She says about 900 of 1,200 veterinarian positions in the department’s food inspection service are filled. The number of vets needed will grow by 22,000 by 2016, making it one of the fastest-growing professions, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports. The nation’s 28 veterinarian schools produce 2,500 graduates a year, a number that has not changed in three decades. Baby boomer retirements – especially among farm vets – hasten the shortage.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-02-28-vetshortage_N.htm?csp=15

14. *February 28, Reuters* – (National) **FDA examines how it tells of food and drug risks.**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is examining the way it tells the public about safety concerns with foods, prescription drugs, medical devices, and other products it regulates, the agency’s commissioner said on Thursday. The FDA issues warnings about drug side effects, recalls of tainted food, and other concerns. Often the agency issues press releases to the media or releases statements on its Web site. In recent years, the agency has started making public announcements about potential risks of medicines before officials determine whether the problems are drug-related. Some experts worry that the warnings create confusion, or that there is little balance with information about benefits. The commissioner said the FDA would consider changing the way it explains product risks to the media and the public.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080228/us_nm/drugs_fda_dc;_ylt=AjPMPih6oahBh4KUuPUvim8WIr0F

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

15. *February 29, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Health Department says 3M chemical levels safe in east metro water.** Water in eastern Twin Cities wells contaminated with a 3M chemical is safe to drink after studies showed it is less toxic than previously thought, the Minnesota Department of Health said. The Health Department on Thursday announced a higher health-based exposure limit for the chemical known as perfluorobutanoic acid, or PFBA. It is in the drinking water of more than 143,000 residents. The new limit is seven times higher than it was a year ago, when the department first established a drinking water guideline for the little-known contaminant. Since that time, many residents in the area had been drinking bottled or filtered water. The new PFBA limit is seven parts per billion. It is based on the results of three studies, two commissioned by 3M and performed by an independent testing agency and one conducted by scientists from the Environmental Protection Agency. The Environmental

Health Division director at the Health Department said the researchers discovered that PFBA passes through the body within days, rather than years like some other perfluorochemicals.

Source: <http://www.wctrib.com/ap/index.cfm?page=view&id=D8V3Q80G0>

16. *February 28, WSB 2 Atlanta* – (Georgia) **Georgia's water crisis is improving.** Just two months ago, nearly half the state of Georgia was in an exceptional drought. But now, much of that area has improved to an extreme drought. Lake Lanier is up 2.5 feet from its record low in late December, and weather experts say the rain north Georgia has received in February is helping. Earlier this month, the governor announced the state will allow limited watering by hand beginning April 1 and loosen restrictions on new landscape watering. However, this is still an extreme drought so counties still have to cut water use by ten percent.

Source: <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/15441074/detail.html>

17. *February 28, Press Democrat* – (California) **Santa Rosa neighborhood goes dry.** About 125 households in Bennett Valley, California, have been without water since Friday because a neighborhood water tank is contaminated. No drinking, bathing, clothes washing, or cooking with the tap water, residents of the Bennett Ridge area were told, bringing a massive inconvenience and a possible health concern now nearly a week old. The problem became evident the evening of February 21 when a resident found her tap water smelled like creosote. She called the Bennett Ridge Mutual Water Co., and the following morning a red warning flag and a sign warning against use of the water were posted at a main intersection. The problem was tracked to a holding tank, which had leaks repaired last week. A coal tar substance used on the tank's inside should have been allowed to dry for about a week before the tank was put back into use. Instead, it was refilled within hours and used by residents, said the owner of Bartley Pump Inc., which operates the water system. Miscommunication between the repair company, which built the five-year-old tank, and Bartley Pump was to blame for the mistake. Water board members were estimating water might be usable by Friday. But several residents feared it would be next week before testing could reassure them their water is clean. And there are concerns about the potential health risks for those who used the water before learning of the problem.

Source:

<http://www1.pressdemocrat.com/article/20080228/NEWS/802280309/1033/NEWS01>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

18. *February 28, Financial Times* – (National) **Google reveals plans for health database.** Google, on Thursday, laid out plans for one of its most anticipated new services, a digital health records system meant to give users more control over their personal healthcare. The plans would put Google's database of health records at the heart of a broader health information system that draws in health insurers, doctors, and others, potentially giving the internet company a central role as the health industry moves towards greater use of information technology. The initiative also opens a new front in

Google's spreading confrontation with Microsoft. The software company launched its own personal health records system, known as HealthVault, late last year. The system will be based on personal health records that patients authorize their health insurers, doctors, and others to move into Google's database. Other companies will then be able to write software applications that make use of these data, for instance creating services that help patients manage their medications or warn parents when their children need inoculations. The biggest incentives for people to use the new system include the ability to take control of their own records when they change health insurers or doctors, a Google chief executive said. Also, patients who obtain drugs from more than one pharmacy will benefit if their records are consolidated in one place, he added.

Source: http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/42915cda-e62b-11dc-8398-0000779fd2ac.html?nclick_check=1

19. *February 28, CNN* – (Minnesota; National) **Medical mystery solved in slaughterhouse.** In Minnesota, a mysterious nerve disorder that hit some slaughterhouse employees with debilitating symptoms apparently was caused by inhaling a fine mist of pig brain tissue. While eating pig brains is not dangerous, inhaling fumes from particles of pig brain matter can be, scientists say. In the procedure, high blasts of compressed air were shot into the head cavity to remove the brains. Sometimes the liquid combined with brain tissue and turned into a mist. Health investigators said droplets of the mist could have entered a worker's system through the mucous membranes in the nose or mouth. Once in the body, the foreign pig brain matter prompted the immune system to produce antibodies to attack it, in a process similar to an allergic reaction. But the foreign matter seems to have also triggered an attack on the body's nerve tissue, killing some of the nerves and causing the mysterious numbness. A translator assisting Spanish-speaking patients helped to expose the hidden risk, which prompted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to name a new disease and led to changes in how pig brains are harvested. On January 31, the CDC gave a new name to the unique constellation of ailments: progressive inflammatory neuropathy, or PIN. The CDC also is tracking two other plants that used the procedure. At one plant in Indiana, there have been three confirmed cases. There have been no cases confirmed at a Nebraska plant. While health authorities are convinced the outbreak is contained, they said it will take months, perhaps years, to understand fully what caused or triggered the illness in workers.

Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/HEALTH/conditions/02/28/medical.mystery/index.html>

Government Facilities Sector

Nothing to Report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

20. *February 29, Security Products Online* – (National) **DHS announces application period for FY 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grants.** The Department of Homeland Security's Grant Programs Directorate will begin accepting applications for the Fiscal Year 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) beginning March 3, with the deadline for receipt of the applications no later than April 4 at 5:00 p.m. EDT. The AFG, which will be distributed in phases throughout FY 2008, will ultimately award approximately \$500 million. Interested applicants can access the FY 2008 AFG application through the AFG Web site (<http://www.firegrantsupport.com>), the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) Web site (<http://www.usfa.fema.gov>) and the Grants.gov Web site (<http://www.grants.gov>). The Web site contains important information about the AFG including the FY 2008 funding priorities and program guidance, a Web-based tutorial on the application process, a listing of frequently asked questions, and other materials. Eligible applicants for the FY 2008 AFG are limited to fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations operating within the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
Source: <http://www.secprodonline.com/articles/58971/>
21. *February 28, Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Louisiana emergency radio system to get upgrade.** The state plans to move into the next phase of deploying a portable radio system that eventually will link law enforcement and other first responders across jurisdictions statewide, Louisiana emergency preparedness officials announced Wednesday. The executive branch spending plan to be introduced Friday by the governor will include \$34 million for the interoperability upgrade, an increase from \$14 million for the program in the current-year budget. In addition to a more unified system, state and local officials are upgrading to a more versatile technology. The money, which is from the state general fund, will be targeted at central and north Louisiana. The Legislature will determine spending priorities when it prepares the state budget during the spring session. Areas roughly south of Interstate 10 already use thousands of the new radio sets backed by towers. A large portion of those systems were financed by the federal government after Hurricane Katrina. The new systems being proposed could be put to use in the southern region if emergency personnel from central and north Louisiana are called upon to assist their counterparts in responding to a coastal-area disaster. Hurricane Katrina demonstrated the pitfalls of poor interagency communications, as State Police, sheriff's offices and police departments, firefighters, medical workers, and public works personnel struggled to coordinate their efforts. The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, along with State Police and the Statewide Interoperable Communication System Executive Committee, have been working on the upgrade.
Source: <http://www.emsresponder.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=7111>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

22. *February 29, Register* – (International) **Symantec and Trend grapple with buffer overflow bugs.** Security products from both Trend Micro and Symantec -- two of the

big three anti-virus players -- have become the subject of serious security vulnerabilities. Errors in Symantec's Decomposer engine create a denial of service or system compromise risk for several enterprise security products (such as Mail Security for Microsoft Exchange and AntiVirus for Network Attached Storage). Vulnerabilities triggered when processing malformed RAR archive files might be used to inject malware onto vulnerable systems (in the most serious case) or crash servers. Security researchers at iDefense discovered the flaws. Symantec published an advisory on Tuesday explaining how systems administrators can update their software. Decomposer components decompress or unpack files. The components have been something of a weak spot in Symantec products of late. As well as being the root cause of the latest security bugs, troubles in updating Decomposer files were behind an error-generating bug that caused all sorts of grief for corporate systems administrators earlier this month. Separately, independent security researchers have discovered buffer overflow bugs in OfficeScan and Policy Server software packages from Trend Micro. Systems administrators are advised to restrict network access to the services pending the availability of patches.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/02/29/symantec_trend_security_bugs/

23. *February 29, ComputerWeekly.com* – (International) **Hackers use common packing methods to infect users.** BitDefender Lab's latest malware list highlights common packing methods used by hackers. A variety of threats, rather than a specific virus, features in the BitDefender Top 10 Malware List for February 2008. When grouped together by BitDefender virus detection engines, it was noted that all the threats used the same packing method. "Virus writers use packers to decrease the size of the virus and to increase the cost of analysis -- unpacking something packed in an as-yet unknown manner takes a lot of time and skill," said the head of BitDefender AV Research. The Peed/Storm Trojan accounted for 16.88 percent of total detections, a strong resurgence given its absence from the January Top 10 Malware List. The "popularity" of the Windows WMF vulnerability decreased as viruses using its signature accounted for 5.33 percent of total detections. Lower on the list are a host of much older mass mailer viruses, on their way to irrelevancy, said BitDefender. These viruses account for approximately 6 percent of total detections -- more than half of which are a result of Netsky.P. "By this point, I think it is safe to say that Netsky.P is the most widespread mass mailer virus of all time," said BitDefender.

Source: <http://www.computerweekly.com/Articles/2008/02/29/229644/hackers-use-common-packing-methods-to-infect-users.htm>

24. *February 28, Channel Register* – (International) **Malware removes rival rootkits.** Miscreants have created a strain of malware capable of removing rootkits from compromised PCs, only to install almost undetectable backdoor code of its own. The Pandex Trojan stops previously installed rootkits from working by removing their hooks into system calls. Pandex then installs its own rootkit component, detected by Trend Micro as Pushu-AC. Rootkits are a type of malware that hide their presence on infected PCs, making them more dangerous than typical viruses. By operating below the level of traditional malware scanning tools, rootkits are able to carry out covert functions, for example keystroke-logging, without detection. Virus writers have competed for control

of vulnerable PCs several times in the past. For example, in 2005 separate groups of hackers released a barrage of worms in a battle to seize control of Windows PCs vulnerable to the then infamous Windows Plug-and-Play (PnP) vulnerability. The Bozori worm was programmed to remove infections by earlier versions of the Zotob worm and other malware, so it could take control of a compromised computer for itself. A family of IRC bots that exploit the same Microsoft Plug and Play vulnerability likewise tried to remove competing PnP bots. More recently, a turf war erupted between the creators of the Storm worm and rival gangs. The Pandex Trojan updates this dishonorable tradition with code that replaces stealthier malware infections.

Source: http://www.channelregister.co.uk/2008/02/28/rootkit_wars/

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

25. *February 29, GovernmentExecutive.com* – (National) **Got Cisco? Are you sure?** The Federal Bureau of Investigation reported today more than 400 seizures of counterfeit Cisco equipment and labels worth more than \$76 million filtering into the United States from China. The effort, which has been ongoing since 2005, is being driven by DHS and FBI. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Customs and Border Protection conducted 28 investigations and managed six indictments and four felony convictions, with more than 74,000 fakes seized, while the FBI's portion of the initiative, dubbed Operation Cisco Raider, resulted in 36 search warrants with approximately 3,500 counterfeit network components identified, and a total of ten convictions. The government is among the most profitable markets for Cisco. That makes federal agencies as susceptible as any to getting duped. In 2004, for example, counterfeit Cisco switches landed in one of the Navy's secure facilities. One contractor involved was recently found liable, and now the circumstances are being investigated by the Navy's Acquisition Integrity Office.

Source:

http://blogs.govexec.com/techinsider/archives/2008/02/got_cisco_are_you_sure.php

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

26. *February 29, CNN* – (Nevada) **Police: Deadly toxin found at Las Vegas hotel.** Police in Las Vegas, Nevada, are investigating the discovery of what they said is the deadly poison ricin in a hotel room. Authorities were called to an Extended Stay America hotel around 3 p.m. PT Thursday after a man brought a bag with a small container to the

manager's office. The man said he found it while retrieving items from a hotel room. The substance is "100 percent ricin," said a Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department official. "We don't know who [the ricin] belongs to or why it would be here at this time." Three hotel employees and a fourth person who came to the room to retrieve some items went to the hospital as a precaution, said an officer. Three police officers who entered the room also are being watched at the hospital. All have been decontaminated, and none of the seven have shown symptoms of ricin poisoning, which can include anything from difficulty breathing, fever, cough, nausea and sweating to severe vomiting and dehydration. An FBI spokesman said Friday there does not appear to be a link to terrorists. An officer said police do not have any suspects at this time. There have been other reported cases involving ricin in the United States. In January 2005, the FBI arrested an Ocala, Florida, man with no known ties to terrorists or extremists after agents found ricin in the home he lives in with his mother.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/02/29/ricin.hotel/index.html>

27. *February 28, CNN* – (Illinois) **Hospital: 5 injured in explosion at Illinois shopping plaza.** On Thursday, a midday explosion at a small strip mall injured several people, collapsed roofs and left mounds of rubble in a Chicago, Illinois, suburb. Five people were taken to Vista Hospital, a spokesman there said. "We do know there was an explosion. We know there was a tuxedo store there and also a hair salon and a bar. Until the firefighters get in there and ... we can get to our equipment and take a closer look, it is premature to say exactly what has caused this," the president of North Shore Gas Co. told CNN. The explosion may have originated inside those businesses.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/02/28/plaza.explosion/index.html>

28. *February 28, Reuters* – (New Jersey) **Man pleads guilty in stadium dirty-bomb hoax.** A Wisconsin man pleaded guilty on Thursday to creating an Internet hoax that claimed "dirty bombs" would be set off at seven U.S. football stadiums, prompting a security scare, the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Jersey said. The suspect admitted that during September and October 2006 he posted a message 40 times on the Internet that seven explosive devices would be set off in cities hosting NFL games including Miami, New York, Atlanta, Seattle, Houston, Cleveland and Oakland, California. He claimed the bombs would cause nearly 100,000 deaths, authorities said. The dirty bombs would be delivered by trucks and eventually be celebrated by al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden as "America's Hiroshima," according to his indictment. He pleaded guilty in federal court in Newark, New Jersey, to one charge of conveying false and misleading information. He faces up to five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 when he is sentenced on June 5.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080228/us_nm/security_nfl_hoax_dc;_ylt=ApuDeTpTLztmV_P8tVgjIfYWIr0F

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

29. *February 29 Los Angeles Times* – (California) **California sues U.S. Forest Service.**

California sued the U.S. Forest Service on Thursday over plans that would open more than 500,000 acres to roads and oil drilling in the state's largest national forests. The four Southern California forests – Los Padres, Angeles, San Bernardino, and Cleveland – comprise more than 3.5 million acres that stretch from Big Sur to the Mexican border. They provide habitat for 31 threatened or endangered animal species and 29 such plant species. The suit alleges that the Forest Service violated the federal National Environmental Policy Act and the National Forest Management Act by not informing the state of potential environmental impacts of its plan, and by not working with the state's laws and policies. Since 2006, California has had a moratorium on road construction in pristine areas of its national forests. State officials also took issue with the roughly 500,000 acres the Forest Service has set aside as wilderness land, an amount that environmentalists and scientists said is half of what would be necessary to protect habitat. A spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service said the agency was reviewing the lawsuit and could not comment on specifics. But he confirmed that the agency had been exchanging letters with the state on "numerous issues" regarding the forest management plans.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/science/environment/la-me-forests29feb29,1,1430635.story?track=rss>

30. *February 28, Washington Post* – (National) **Police force improvements promised.** A top official vowed yesterday to turn around the troubled U.S. Park Police, which is under fire for inadequately protecting national monuments in New York and Washington. The National Park Service director told a House subcommittee that a damning report by the Interior Department inspector general this month "demands my prompt and decisive action." Appearing at a budget hearing, the director promised an "action plan" to improve leadership, officer safety, and financial transparency at the police agency, which is part of the Park Service.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/02/27/AR2008022703531.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

31. *February 29, Baraboo News Republic* – (Wisconsin) **Parts of Mirror Lake dam 'dilapidated', inspector says.** A state inspector found deterioration and weak structures on portions of a Sauk County, Wisconsin, dam that could cause loss of life if it were to break. The dam had gone 13 years since its last full inspection, although state law requires dams to be inspected every ten years. Sauk County must investigate and repair damage to the Delton Dam, located on Mirror Lake, and develop an emergency action plan to implement if it breaks, according to a state inspection report. County officials say the problems with the dam do not constitute an immediate threat, and people living downstream should not be concerned. Work will begin on the Delton Dam in 2009 after county officials finish work on the Lake Redstone dam. Of highest concern to the state inspector was a retention wall found to be deteriorated and covered with trees and vegetation.

Source: <http://www.wiscnews.com/bnr/news/274812>

32. *February 29, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Delayed dam repairs have Utah town warning of flooding risks.** City officials here are so worried about lagging fixes to an old masonry dam that they are warning hundreds of residents downstream to be ready if runoff overwhelms the reservoir this spring. “An extended warm rain could put our area at significant risk for potential flooding,” Enterprise’s mayor wrote in a letter mailed Thursday to residents. The problem rests at the 96-year-old Upper Enterprise Reservoir dam, where crews are behind schedule in upgrading the structure. A new discharge pipe to funnel runoff is finally in place, but workers have yet to finish shoving earth back up against the bare surface of the dam. Right now, runoff is flowing into a lower reservoir, which is full and expected to begin releasing water over the spillway within days. Under ideal circumstances, officials would like to start storing water in the upper reservoir, but it is not yet ready to do so. If construction workers are unable to wrap up the earth work on both sides of the dam’s masonry face before runoff inundates the upper reservoir, some officials fear the dam – which carries a “high” hazard rating – could fail. The president of the Enterprise Reservoir and Canal Co. doubts his company’s dam will fail. The assistant state engineer for dam safety acknowledged that under extreme conditions – for example, warm rain on top of steep snowpack – the dam could fail.

Source: http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_8403352

33. *February 28, WOAI 4 San Antonio* – (Texas) **State says Medina Lake Dam needs improvements.** The Medina Lake dam is almost a hundred years old. Its integrity was tested during the floods of 2002. Now Bexar County, Texas, commissioners say improvements have to be made. During the floods of 2002 a judge from the Bexar County Commissioner’s Court said the Medina Lake Dam was about to break. Now, the Bexar County commissioners are ready to spend \$3 million for an improvement plan outside Bexar County. A state study recommends enhancing Medina Dam’s stability by adding anchors and reinforcing the concrete apron. With the new growth, like the Toyota plant, the commissioners want to prevent anything disastrous from happening. The improvements are estimated to cost \$10 million.

Source: http://www.woai.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=5e7b736a-ba66-408e-8811-2a67d600eb98

34. *February 28, Columbia Basin Herald* – (Washington) **Little fire damage at Wanapum Dam.** A small accidental fire reported at the control room powerhouse of Wanapum Dam damaged a welder and power cord. The February 21 fire was “fairly small” and traced to an extension cord connected to an arc welder, which was used the same night, according to the Grant County Public Utility District (PUD) spokesperson and information from the Grant County Sheriff’s Office. The equipment belonged to a subcontractor working on the utility’s turbine installation project. The power plant’s operator found the smoke and put it out with a fire extinguisher, she said. The area was vented and the PUD employees working at the time returned to the building around midnight. There was not any damage to the building.

Source: <http://www.columbiabasinherald.com/articles/2008/02/28/news/news02.txt>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:	Send mail to NICCRReports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389
Removal from Distribution List:	Send mail to NICCRReports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.